

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 9, 2001

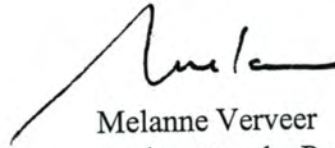
Jean Gilson
U.S. Embassy, Hanoi
PSC 461, Box 400
FPO AP, 96521-0002

Dear Jean,

Enclosed are photos taken with Mrs. Clinton during the President and First Lady's visit to Vietnam. Please pass them on to the right people, with her compliments.

Again, thank you so much for everything you did to make the visit such a success! Hope all is well in Hanoi, and with you and your colleagues' vital work.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

January 8, 2001

Jean Gilson
U.S. Embassy, Hanoi
PSC 461, Box 400
FPO AP, 96521-0002

OIC

Dear Jean,

Enclosed are photos taken with Mrs. Clinton during the President and First Lady's visit to Vietnam. Please pass them on to the right people, with her compliments.

Again, thank you so much for everything you did to make the visit such a success! Hope all is well in Hanoi, and with you and your colleagues' vital work.

Very best wishes,

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 9, 1999

His Excellency Helmut Tuerk
Kabinetts Direktor
Office of the Federal President
Hofburg
A-1014 Vienna, Austria

Dear Ambassador Tuerk:

Thank you for your letter and for forwarding Mrs. Margot Klestil-Löffler's invitation for Mrs. Clinton to keynote the conference on combating child pornography on the Internet, September 29-October 1 in Vienna. Our Ambassador to Austria also met with me on this topic.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton will not be able to accept the kind invitation, as she has other commitments in the US. Please convey Mrs. Clinton's best wishes for a successful conference to all who are involved in this important endeavor.

Very best wishes to you and your family. Hope you are enjoying your time back in Austria and that the new post is challenging. We miss you and Monica.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL

Vienna, 30 June 1999

Dear Melanne,

I have the privilege to transmit you a letter by Mrs. Margot Klestil-Löffler, wife of Federal President Thomas Klestil, inviting the First Lady to the conference on "Combating Child Pornography on the Internet" which will take place in Vienna from September 29 to October 1, 1999. The conference is hosted by Austria and co-sponsored by the United States and the European Union.

It would enormously add not only the prestige, but also to the substance of this important conference, if Mrs. Clinton were able to attend the opening and to deliver a keynote address.

I am fully aware of the heavy demands on the First Lady's schedule, but I would nevertheless very much appreciate it if you could forward for this letter to Mrs. Clinton with a favorable recommendation on your part.

Thanking you in advance for your endeavors, I remain

Yours very truly,

Helmut

(Ambassador Helmut TUERK)

Ms. Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington D.C.

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Eric -
P15
rush

OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT
THE DIRECTOR GENERAL
Ambassador Helmüt TUEPK
Vienna, AUSTRIA

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1999

Dr. Leila Takla
International Legal Consultants
8 Elsad Elali St.- DOKY
Cairo, Egypt

Dear Leila:

Thank you for your very thoughtful note and good wishes.

Mrs. Clinton was delighted to meet you, as your reputation for effectiveness and leadership is well known. I, of course, had the best seat in the house at the unforgettable dinner in Luxor. She conveys her appreciation for all you do in your country and for the betterment of the world.

The rings will continue to bring us good luck!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

May 24, 1999

Dr. Leila Takla
International Legal Consultants
8 Elsad Elali St.- DOKY
Cairo, Egypt

Dear Leila:

Thank you for your very thoughtful note and good wishes.

Mrs. Clinton was ~~honored to meet so many interesting people and see so many fascinating places during her visit. She conveys her appreciation for you and your colleagues' vital work for women, along with her best wishes.~~

~~Thank you for your gracious hospitality and all you did to make the visit such a success.~~

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

*your country
& for the
betterment
of the world*

*delighted to meet you as your
reputation
for effective -
ness &
leadership
is well known.
I, ~~thank~~
of course, had
the best
seat in the
house at
the ~~fast~~
unforgettable
dinner in
Luxor.*

Dr. Leila Takla

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CONSULTANTS

8 ELSAD ELALI ST. - DOKY



دكتورة ليلا تكلّا

المكتب الدولي للإستشارات القانونية

٨ شارع السد العالي - النقى

Dear Melanne,

It was a pleasure to meet you and a Joy to know you.

Mrs. Clinton left a beautiful impression here, as both intelligent and charming .

You will be receiving by mail the booklets and clippings as agreed .

Do come again.

Much Love.

A Vow ,

Leila



(R)

THE PRESIDENT

March 17, 1999

pls file
w/o MU's
response under
T's.

Thanks,

Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer:

Thanks for the photographs taken when the First Lady was on the campus at George Washington University for the Oberstar Lecture.

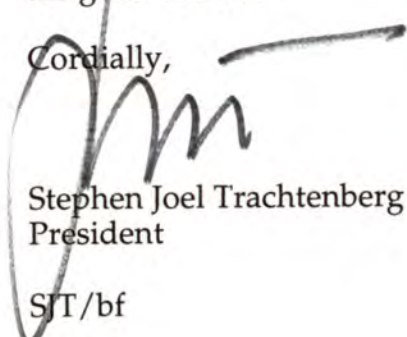
I'm just back from two weeks in Morocco. I was with Ambassador Gabriel when word came to him of the First Lady's impending trip. I understand that she's going to be visiting Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane while she's there. The purpose of my travel was to arrange an exchange program between GW and Al-Akhawayn students and faculty. This will be announced when Mrs. Clinton is visiting the campus. Either I'll be there or my Vice President for Academic Affairs will represent me.

We're thrilled that the First Lady may be present for this historic occasion. Indeed her presence at the uniting of GW and Al-Akhawayn resources will really help to make the entire matter very special.

My son, Ben (now a sophomore at Yale) was with my wife and me in Morocco. He was a classmate of Chelsea at Sidwell Friends and they are known to each other. He will E-mail Chelsea his insights on the Morocco trip. We understand that she may be accompanying her mother.

All good wishes.

Cordially,


Stephen Joel Trachtenberg
President

SJT/bf



THE PRESIDENT
2121 EYE STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20052



Melanne Verveer
Assistant to the President and
Chief of Staff to the First Lady
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 25, 1999

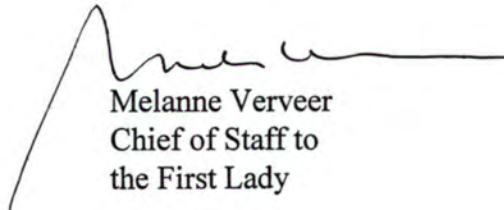
Lauren Taylor
Kasper for A.S.L.
1412 Broadway
New York, NY 10018-5218

Dear Ms. Taylor:

Thank you for your letter and kind invitation to
view the 1999 Kasper line.

I regret that I cannot accept your gracious offer. But
please accept my appreciation for your thoughtfulness and
very best wishes for a happy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

KASPER

FOR

A.S.L.

November 30, 1998

Ms. Melanne Vervet
100 OEOB
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Melanne,

On behalf of Kasper A.S.L., I would like to extend warm holiday greetings and hope that all is going well. I would also like to introduce you to Kasper in case you are not already familiar with our clothes.

Kasper A.S.L., headquartered in New York City, is the largest women's suit manufacturer in the world. We've achieved this by consistently combining the finest quality with classic styling; all the while keeping with current fashion trends. Our suits and sportswear (Kasper, b.bennett, Kasper & Co., Le Suit, Albert Nipon) are worn by prominent female executives all over the United States.

Based on this, we would like to invite you to view our 1999 lines and would be happy to schedule a personal appointment in Washington.

Please call me at (919) 832-6300 if you have any questions or would like to schedule an appointment.

I look forward to hearing from you,



Lauren Taylor
Kasper Public Relations

*Respect
but
Thank*

1412 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018-5281
(212) 354-4311

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 10, 1999

Susan Thompson
Executive Director
The Women's Housing Coalition
119 E. 25th Street
Baltimore, MD 21218

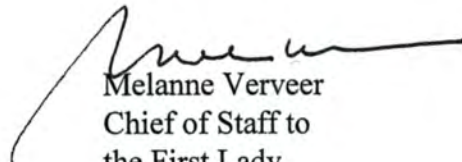
Dear Ms. Thompson:

Thank you for your letter and invitation for the First Lady to attend the ground breaking ceremony for the Margaret J. Bennett House on March 29, 1999 in Baltimore.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton's schedule will not permit her to attend the ceremony as she will be traveling in North Africa at that time. Your work on behalf of low income and homeless women is so critical. Mrs. Clinton conveys her appreciation for The Women's Housing Coalition's vital work along with her best wishes to you and your colleagues for a successful event.

You have the great satisfaction of knowing that your work truly matters. Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



The Women's Housing Coalition

20 Years of Giving Hope a Home

February 23, 1999

VIA FACSIMILE

Ms. Patricia Solis-Doyle
Scheduler
Office of The First Lady
185.5 Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ms. Solis-Doyle:

We are writing to invite the First Lady to the ground breaking ceremony for the Women's Housing Coalition's (WHC) Margaret J. Bennett House, which is being co-sponsored by the WHC, the Fannie Mae Foundation, and The Enterprise Social Investment Corporation. Established in 1979, the WHC is dedicated to providing housing and support services to low income and homeless women and children. Continuing this mission, the Margaret J. Bennett House will provide permanent housing and comprehensive support services to 29 disabled, low income women, which will include employment training, life skills training, computer literacy programs, health and nutrition classes, and similar services. Knowing the First Lady's deep commitment to the issues confronting women and children affected by poverty and violence, we would be honored if she would attend this historic event. For planning purposes, we include the following information:

Time and Place. The ground breaking ceremony is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 29, 1999 at the Margaret J. Bennett House in Baltimore, but can be changed to accommodate the First Lady's schedule. We would anticipate that the First Lady would deliver a few short remarks.

Financial Supporters. The project has received significant financial support from The Enterprise Social Investment Corporation, The Federal Home Loan Bank, The Fannie Mae Foundation, and the William G. Baker, Jr. Memorial Fund. In addition,

119 E. 25th Street

Baltimore, MD 21218

410.235.5782 fax 235.9460

Ms. Patricia Solis-Doyle
February 26, 1999
Page 2

Baltimore Gas & Electric, Bell Atlantic, WR Grace & Co., T. Rowe Price and Associates and NationsBank have all been strong supporters of the Women's Housing Coalition.

Attendees. We anticipate that our corporate supporters, including Jamie Gorelick of the Fannie Mae Foundation, Senators Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes, Mayor Kurt L. Schmoke and other leaders and community groups will attend the event.

Project Team. The Bennett House development is an innovative project, partnering the WHC with Homes for America, a nonprofit housing developer, Struever Bros., Eccles & Rouse, a contractor specializing in urban renewal and redevelopment, and Hord, Coplan & Macht, a nationally known architectural firm.

The Margaret J. Bennett House. A beautiful 125-year-old historic building named for a nineteenth century philanthropist who left her residence to establish a boarding house for women. The boarding house was in continuous operation from 1901 until December 31, 1998. The WHC will continue the original mission of the Bennett House and expand its intent to include a range of life skills training and support services.

The Message. Innovative public/private initiatives can successfully respond to the continuing needs of women and children affected by poverty and violence. The Margaret J. Bennett House will provide quality, affordable housing to women who, because of mental illness, past substance abuse, domestic violence, or other reason, have not been able to lift themselves from poverty. By renovating a historic building in downtown Baltimore, the Bennett House will provide its residents with all the resources and vitality of a major city center while helping to stabilize an important urban community and neighborhood.

The ground breaking ceremony not only marks the construction of a major new resource for homeless women in Baltimore (which will serve as a national model for other urban areas), but also coincides with the WHC's 20th Anniversary of providing housing and support services to women and children in need. We hope that the First Lady will be able to attend this very special historic event.

Ms. Patricia Solis-Doyle
February 26, 1999
Page 3

Please call if you have any questions about The Margaret J. Bennett House project or the WHC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Thompson".

Susan Thompson
Executive Director

cc: Ms. Melanne Verveer
Ms. Shirley Sagawa

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 8, 1999

Ann Tate
University of Ulster
Newtownabbey
County Antrim
BT37 0QB
Northern Ireland

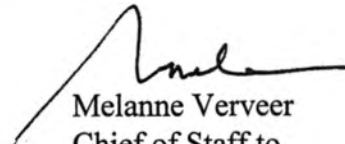
Dear Ann:

Thank you for your letter and invitation to the First Lady to accept an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Ulster.

Because it is not yet certain when Mrs. Clinton would be in a position to accept your kind offer, it is not possible to make any commitment at this time. But I have forwarded your invitation to Patti Solis Doyle, Director of Scheduling for the First Lady. As plans are being developed we shall get back to you.

Hope all is well.

Sincerely,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Provost and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (External Affairs)

Mrs Ann Tate BSc MSc

Private and Confidential

Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton
First Lady
The White House
WASHINGTON DC
U S A

17 February 1999

Dear Mrs Clinton,

The University of Ulster would be greatly honoured if you would accept from us an Honorary Doctorate in recognition of your outstanding contribution to women's development, not only in Northern Ireland, but in the wider international arena. We are acutely aware of the keen interest taken by you in all matters pertaining to peace and reconciliation in Ireland, and were delighted with your past involvement with the University including your participation in the ground-breaking ceremonies at our proposed Springvale Campus located on the Peace Line in West Belfast last Autumn.

Your understanding of the role played by women, often behind the scenes, is bringing us to where we are today. We believe that your place in this process deserves the utmost in recognition and the award of our highest honour is our way of underpinning that recognition.

We do hope that you will accept this Honorary Doctorate, in principle, so that we can begin discussions for more detailed arrangements. We would propose an event marking this recognition at a time that is convenient to your busy schedule. It has been brought to my attention that you have expressed an interest in spending time in our lovely country-side so we could arrange the event to take place at one of our campuses outside Belfast.

My very best wishes to you and my warmest regards to your husband and your daughter.

Yours sincerely,



Ann Tate

Advancing Knowledge through Teaching, Learning and Research

Newtownabbey County Antrim BT37 0QB Northern Ireland Telephone: Belfast (01232) 366164 Fax: (01232) 366827
Campuses: Belfast, Coleraine, Jordanstown, Magee College



A small, handwritten blue mark in the top right corner of the page, resembling a stylized "e" or a signature.

March 3, 1999

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff
Office of the First Lady
OEOB, Room 100
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Verveer,

As discussed, enclosed is a trailer and proposal for the documentary, THE FREEDOM TRAIL.

By way of introduction, Gabriel Films has just received an Academy Award nomination for Best Documentary for THE FARM: ANGOLA, USA. The company has produced over 20 critically acclaimed films, broadcast on HBO, Discovery Channel, PBS, A&E and network television worldwide.

Since completing THE FARM we have continued to explore some of the issues that were raised. THE FREEDOM TRAIL is a result of that process. This project plans to continue where THE FARM left off, as it takes the viewers out of the world of prisons and into one of hope and possibility.

I am also enclosing a copy of THE FARM as I understand the President and First Lady enjoy watching documentaries. The response to the film has been so enormous and inspiring. There is no denying the power of the media; people from all over the world have responded and reached out to do something. Real change is happening because of it. We believe THE FREEDOM TRAIL will be equally powerful in its unique approach to dealing with the issues of drug addiction and rehabilitation.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lori Benson".

Lori Benson



February 15, 1999

General Barry McCaffrey
Office of National Drug Control Policy
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

Via Facsimile: (202) 395 6680

Dear General,

As an American hero and honored veteran, it is my privilege to correspond with you. I can only guess at how terribly busy you are, but still, I hope you will have the time to read this letter and respond. I am a documentary filmmaker who has been fortunate this year to have received an Academy nomination for THE FARM, a film about a prison in Louisiana.

I am committed to documentaries, not only because I love the craft, but because I believe it can be a powerful way of educating, inspiring, even challenging people to think and act about issues that effect all of us. Having worked in prison, it is shockingly apparent just how damaging and tragic the impact of drugs are on our nation. I commend you for your efforts and in fact, have made a commitment to do more than just lament. I am currently working on two projects that deal directly with the problem of drugs.

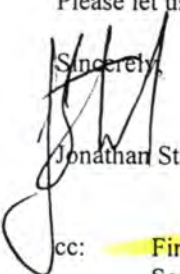
The Purpose follows five addicts as they participate in a highly successful drug rehabilitation program in Harlem. We will be with them over the course of a year to observe what works, what doesn't, why people choose drugs and most importantly, what can we do to stop the madness. The film will air on A & E television network who have generously supported my work.

The second film, The Freedom Trail follows the ARC Gospel Choir as they journey North along the Underground Railroad singing songs of hope and faith. Each choir member is a recovered drug addict and has dedicated his or her life to helping others find the strength to break the chains of addiction. We begin in Angola Prison in Louisiana and continue on until A.M.E. Zionist Church in Harlem where Harriet Tubman once preached. We have shot the film, but still need funding to complete the editing.

Together these two films form bookends that show the full range of the addiction experience; from the gutters to full recovery. While I appreciate the intelligence and intensity of Partnership for A Drug Free America ad campaign, I am certain the war will not be won with one liners. Fighting addiction is long term process that requires enormous commitment and love and faith. We need your help to make this project reach its fullest potential.

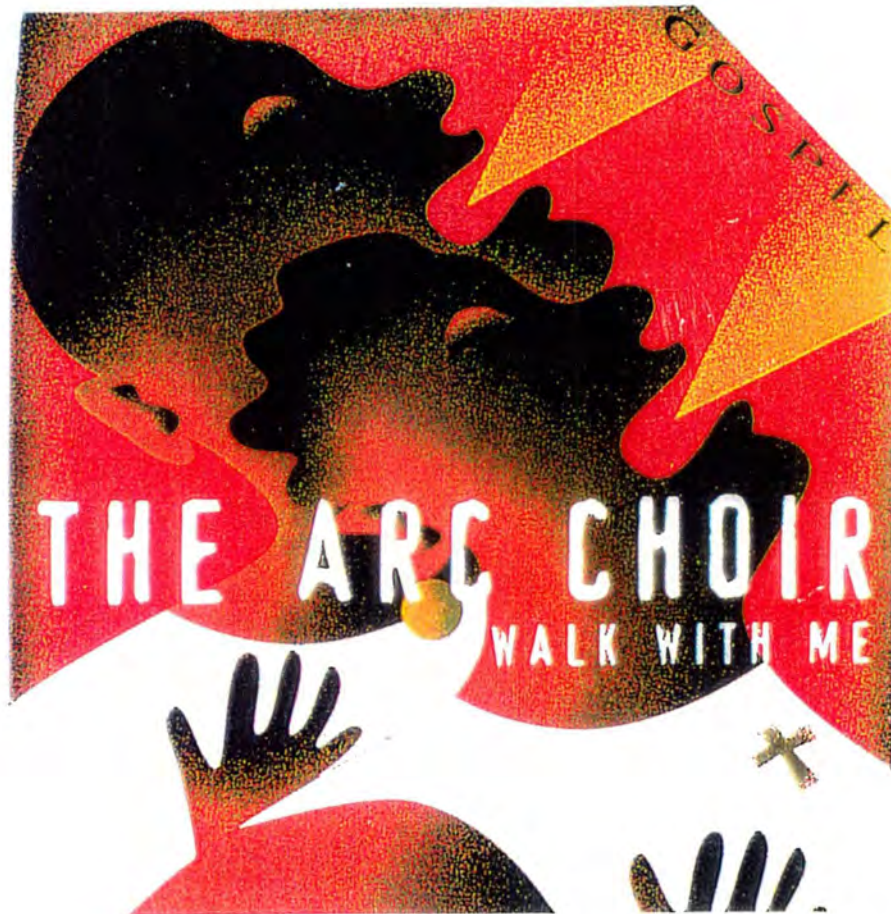
Please let us know who we should contact to pursue this project further.

Sincerely,


Jonathan Stack

cc: First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton
Senator Charles Schumer
Senator Daniel Moynihan

THE FREEDOM TRAIL



The ARC Gospel Choir
Tour of the Underground Railroad

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THE FREEDOM TRAIL

THE FREEDOM TRAIL is a powerful documentary film project that tells the story of the Addicts Rehabilitation Choir (ARC) of Harlem as they journey along the Underground Railroad.

As America's foremost a cappella gospel choir, the ARC is unique in that its 35 members have all fought and won the battle against drug addiction. Founded in 1977 by Mr. James Allen, director of the Addicts Rehabilitation Center and himself a recovered addict, the ARC now has six critically acclaimed albums and a series of U.S. and European tours to their credit.

THE FREEDOM TRAIL follows the ARC choir as they journey from the South to the North along the Underground Railroad that, during one of the darkest periods in American History, took so many slaves to freedom. The trip began on September 5, 1998 and continued through September 22, 1998. THE FREEDOM TRAIL follows the choir as they travel through the American countryside singing songs of hope and freedom at rehab centers, African-American churches, schools, the largest prison in the U.S. and Congo Square in New Orleans, with 15 concerts during their 3-week tour. Like Frederick Douglas and other heroes of the Railroad, the ARC singers share their music and remarkable stories of recovery and healing in the hope that others may break free from their own chains of addiction.

As drug addiction becomes rampant, it is clear that we need to find positive solutions to reach those in need and give them the tools and the place to regain control of their lives. The ARC's uniquely spiritual program is an example of one of the positive responses to drug addiction; declaring the war on drug addiction and not on the drug addicts. As the heroic 'conductor' Harriet Tubman helped others escape the physical bondage of slavery, the singers of the ARC choir share their message of redemption and inspire others to free themselves and their communities of the mental enslavement of drug addiction.

At each historic locale, the ARC Choir invited the surrounding community to join them to hear their testimony across all divisive lines-rich and poor, recovered and recovering, regardless of race, all were welcome. This courageous journey began in Shreveport, Louisiana at a Juvenile Detention Center and continued North to Niagara Falls where the choir made the symbolic crossing to freedom in Canada. It ends in a homecoming celebration at Harlem's historic Mother Zion AME Church on September 22, Emancipation Proclamation Day. The closing songs including 'Amazing Grace' and 'I'm Free' tell the story of the long struggle for freedom and touch the very roots of our history—a history that holds the key to helping others find peace and unity.

Never before has the ARC opened their lives to others as they have for THE FREEDOM TRAIL. The film takes us on this unprecedented trip, documenting their concerts and the impact the choir has on those lives they inspire along their path. We follow members of the choir from their homes in Harlem all along their Underground rail tour. The film is a road-trip performance shot in classic vérité style to best capture the honesty and strength of these highly personal stories. We will intercut the personal tales with a rich array of archival material including diaries, written accounts, poetry and photos but we will always return to the music of the ARC choir to bring all within the sound of their voices, a soulful joy.

ADDICTS REHABILITATION CENTER

Over 130 years have passed since the end of slavery, but the wounds caused by history's ills are slow to heal. While many of the most blatant forms of discrimination have disappeared, there are equally destructive forces at work within the African American community that continue to make true freedom highly elusive. Racism is still a factor in American society and economic woes take their daily toll, but perhaps nothing has had a more insidious effect than alcohol and drugs. Addiction, like slavery, has the capacity to destroy the very soul and spirit of a people. Pipes and needles of the addict have replaced the whips and chains of slavery.

The problem is further complicated because in America, drug addicts are too often treated as disposable humanity, considered unworthy of care and support. Yet, for others the gaze of the addict is a stark reflection back from the mirror of society's ills. Addiction, an internalized manifestation of oppression, which like slavery itself, exists with a plausibility of full recovery. In this model, built on a foundation of hope and possibility, addiction is considered an illness that can be cured, not a pathology that must be punished. The heroes in their 'liberation' struggle are likewise legendary, continuing a tradition of sacrifice and bravery that dates back to the days of Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglas.

No one in the U.S. has had a greater success rate in this battle than Mr. James Allen, founder and director of the Addicts Rehabilitation Center based in Harlem, New York. In 1958, a young James Allen had just returned to Harlem from a two-month rehab stint in Kentucky where he finally managed to kick his own heroin habit. Bolstered by the power of God, he managed to open a center within the heart of Harlem. He started the endeavor with a singular commitment to never lock the front door. Today, almost 40 years later, the door still remains unlocked while 20,000 men and women have passed through the Addict's Rehabilitation Center program, lovingly known as 'The Purpose'.

Like Allen, many of the clients found strength through musical talent and tradition, and Allen soon built a choir made up entirely of recovering addicts. He came to see that music, and particularly gospel, was a uniquely powerful tool for healing. Not only does his center have one of the highest success rates of any in the nation, his choir, the A.R.C., have become one of the most renowned groups in America and have performed in Germany, Morocco, France, Italy and Spain.

THE FREEDOM TRAIL CONCERTS

The stops on this tour reflect the crucial stops on the Underground Railroad Trail, such as:

- **SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA – SEPTEMBER 6, 1998**

Mt. Canaan Baptist Church- A strong supporter of the ARC Gospel Choir and its message, mission and ministry of liberation from drugs.

Caddo Parish Juvenile Detention Center- To encourage youth who have entered the criminal justice system to straighten out their lives.

- **LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA – SEPTEMBER 7, 1998**

Progressive Baptist Church- A strong supporter of the ARC Choir and its message.

Lafayette Middle School- To encourage youth to follow a healthy path.

- **ANGOLA, LOUISIANA – SEPTEMBER 8, 1998**

Angola Penitentiary- America's oldest and largest prison, it was once a slave plantation and today the prison holds 4,500 inmates of African-American descent, 90% whom will never leave its gates.

- **NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA – SEPTEMBER 9, 1998**

Christian Unity Baptist Church- Located near Congo Square, which was a place where slaves would gather to sing, dance and plan their escape. It was known for its blend of dancing and music- a combination of African, Caribbean and contemporary African-American. According to the Underground Railroad by Charles Blockson, "the Creole Code played a vital role in Louisiana's Underground Railroad history. The code was used as a safe guidance for slaves escaping to freedom, as a way to communicate, to pass notes and letters... The value of the Code lay in its secrecy."

Mahalia Jackson Center for Performing Arts- Located at Congo Square.

- **ATLANTA, GEORGIA – SEPTEMBER 11, 1998**

**Interdenominational Theological Center
The Atlanta PTA**

- **SAVANNAH, GEORGIA – SEPTEMBER 12, 1998**

First African Baptist Church/ First Bryan Baptist Church – Both claim to be the oldest African-American churches in America.

First African Baptist Church housed a four-foot-wide tunnel underneath the floor with diamond-shaped holes which provided air. The church pews still display carved initials and African symbols of free blacks and slaves who worshipped there.

First Bryan Baptist Church is the oldest land owning church in the United States. This is the original church built by Rev. Bryan who also built First African Baptist Church.

THE FREEDOM TRAIL CONCERTS CONT'D

- **BEAUFORT, SOUTH CAROLINA – SEPTEMBER 13, 1998**
Tabernacle Baptist Church- Located at Penn Center, the first school for free slaves in America. Harriet Tubman was also connected with this area when she served as a spy in the army.
- **RICHMOND, VIRGINIA – SEPTEMBER 14, 1998**
4th Baptist Church
- **WASHINGTON D.C. – SEPTEMBER 15, 1998**
The Capital Steps

Metropolitan AME Church- According to oral tradition, the original church's congregation shielded and fed fugitive slaves within the church's walls.
- **PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA – SEPTEMBER 17, 1998**
Mother Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church- Founded in 1794 by Bishop Richard Allen, Mother Bethel was a major station on the Underground Railroad during its early years.
- **NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 18, 1998**
St. John's AME Church- The Whirlpool Rapids Bridge near the Falls marked the final passage to freedom. St. John's is the first church in the area founded by people of African descent and it served as a station for the Underground Railroad.
- **HARLEM, NEW YORK – SEPTEMBER 22, 1998**
EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION DAY
Mother Zion African Methodist Church - Affectionately known as the "Freedom Church", it is the oldest African-American church in New York State and was a major Underground Railroad station.

TIMETABLE

The following is the timetable for THE FREEDOM TRAIL:

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

The historic stops of the tour and the people and organizations profiled in THE FREEDOM TRAIL have been thoroughly researched and all participants selected. We will interview ARC director James Allen and the members of the choir, as well as musicians, historians, and other individuals connected to the ARC tour of the Railroad. Extensive research into the history of the Railroad and its modern day influence has been conducted.

SHOOTING (September and October, 1998)

Production time for THE FREEDOM TRAIL is 5 weeks. The shooting schedule is based on a total of 21 shooting days, with three weeks of 6 shooting days each during the ARC tour and an additional 7 days for supplementary interviews.

POST-PRODUCTION (March 1999-June 1999)

The edit schedule covers a 16-week period and includes 4 weeks to digitize, 11 weeks to off-line edit, and 1 week to on-line edit, mix and sweeten, at which point the 1 hour documentary will be completed.

THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The Underground Railroad was the most effective protest action against slavery in US history. Although its beginnings date back to the Colonial period, the activity of the Underground Railroad reached its peak from 1830 to 1865, when abolitionists and sympathizers who condemned human bondage aided large numbers of slaves to freedom.

A unique system, due to its amorphous and secretive nature, the Underground Railroad was fueled by a common passion for humanity and freedom. Communicating by code to locate the varying routes that reached from the shores of the Carolinas to freedom in the North, the “passengers” on this railroad traveled by moonlight, often in disguise, with bloodhounds on their trails. Protected by secret “conductors” of the railroad, they were hidden in basements, fireplaces, in attics and carriage bottoms. The network relied on the cooperation of these “conductors” who were made up of Africans, Quakers, Unitarians and Indigenous Americans—all who risked their lives to help bring enslaved individuals to freedom.

Perhaps the most famous example is that of Harriet Tubman. Known as “Moses” to her people, Harriet Tubman, who escaped from slavery in 1849, jeopardized her own life and freedom by returning to the South 19 times to guide at least 300 bondsmen and loved ones to freedom. Although the exact number of those who traveled these routes can never be known, the stories of individual sacrifice and heroism of the runaways and their supporters are legendary.

The effectiveness of the Underground Railroad intimidated slave owners and was perceived as a form of “organized theft” which threatened their livelihood, thus contributing to the escalating tensions between North and South. In 1850, Congress passed a Compromise that included a revised Fugitive Slave Law which declared the necessity for federal and state officials, as well as private citizens, to assist in the capture of escaped slaves. Now that the Northern states were no longer considered safe havens for runaways, the routes of the Underground extended to Canada, and sometimes even Mexico and the Caribbean. Despite the threat of the Fugitive Slave Law, the Underground Railroad continued to provide safe passage for refugees.

By the end of the 1850s the slave controversy began to split the nation even further apart as the North and South refused to agree on a solution, thus precipitating the nation into civil war in 1861. Building on their experience, the Underground continued during the war, carrying out clandestine activities that helped propel the goal of freedom. Thousands upon thousands of slaves deserted plantations and cities to take refuge behind Union lines and with the help of over 180,000 African American soldiers and spies, the Union forces crushed the Confederacy in 1865.

After the Civil War, the need for further underground activity ceased when over 4 million African American slaves were officially freed as per the 13th Amendment to the Constitution. Unfortunately, the road to freedom did not end there as discrimination, racism, lynchings and hatred continued on unabated. Oppression has taken a new face in late 20th Century America and tragically, today over 5 million Americans are entangled in the Criminal Justice System. The majority of them are African American. In today’s America, young African American children must grow up knowing that 1 in 3 black males will end up in jail at some point during his life. Over 130 years later, the scars and patterns of slavery still run deep. The need for true healing has not ended.

THE FREEDOM TRAIL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Gabriel Films plans to establish an outreach program to begin in New York City. We will target schools, community centers, churches, juvenile detention centers and prisons. The program will entail screenings of *The Freedom Trail* followed by panel discussions and/or workshops. The purpose is twofold: to prevent at risk youth and adults from entering into a life of drug dependency, and to encourage those suffering from drug addiction to seek help and re-enter society as contributing members. We hope to use this as a model for expansion nationwide.

We are in the process of applying for endowments from a number of different foundations. We presently have commitments to show the completed film at a variety of outlets including churches and Big Brothers Big Sisters of NYC Inc.



Jonathan Stack founded GABRIEL FILMS in 1991. He has since made over 15 critically acclaimed films that have been broadcast on PBS, A&E, Discovery Channel, Channel Four, the BBC and on international television networks in several around the world.

Recently nominated for an Academy Award and winner of the "Grand Jury Prize" at the 1998 Sundance Film Festival, Gabriel Films' *THE FARM* is the result of a three-year relationship that Stack fostered with Louisiana Corrections Officials and with a handful of men confined at the Louisiana State Penitentiary at Angola. Shot over the course of one year, Stack and co-director Liz Garbus gained unprecedented access that enabled them to produce an unusual and moving film, as well as exposing them to the most brutal realities of the criminal justice system. A shortened version of *THE FARM* aired on Channel 4 in England in October 1997, and it was named "Best Documentary" by the *London Times*. After its American premiere at Sundance, *THE FARM* won the "Golden Spire Award" from the San Francisco Film Festival, "Best Documentary" at the Santa Barbara Film Festival, and "The Audience Award" at the Double Take Documentary Film Festival in North Carolina. Most recently, *THE FARM* won "Best Non-Fiction Film of the Year" by the New York Film Critics Circle and National Film Society Award as well as "Best Documentary of the Year" by the L.A. Critics Award.

Prior to *THE FARM*, Stack produced and directed *FINAL JUDGMENT: THE EXECUTION OF ANTONIO JAMES*, which premiered on Discovery Channel in August 1996. Working closely with Wilbert Rideau, an award-winning journalist and former death row inmate himself, *FINAL JUDGMENT* tells the story of the life and death of Antonio James, Louisiana's longest death row inmate. The film was shown at film festivals around the world, and received numerous awards, including the "Thurgood Marshall Award", the "Cine Golden Eagle", the "LA. Bar Association Award", and an *Emmy* nomination.

In 1994, Stack made *HARLEM DIARY: NINE VOICES OF RESILIENCE* (Golden Eagle, 1995), a feature length documentary which aired on the Discovery Channel. The film tells the story of nine young men and women constructing positive lives as they face the challenges of growing up in a racist world.

Other Gabriel Films highlights include *DAMNED IN THE USA*, a 1991 documentary about arts censorship in the U.S. directed by Paul Yule. The film won the International *Emmy* for Arts Documentary.

Gabriel Films is currently in production on several projects, including:
THE HARLEM GIRLS CHOIR for HBO
THE RETURN OF THE KAMIKAZE KID for Discovery Channel
20 YEARS TO LIFE for A&E and Channel 4
ST. GABRIEL'S WOMENS PRISON for A&E, Channel Four

We also have numerous projects in development and pre-production.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

August 20, 1999

Linda Tarr-Whelan
President and CEO
Center for Policy Alternatives
1875 Connecticut Ave., NW #710
Washington, DC 20009

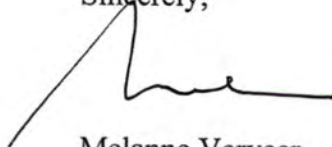
Dear Linda,

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter and invitation for Mrs. Clinton to keynote *Women & the Economy: The Downing Street Summit*, November 8-9 in London.

Regrettably, Mrs. Clinton will not be able to accept the invitation, as she is committed to be elsewhere at that time. Your work continues to play such a vital role for women's progress and we hope the project with women in Northern Ireland will be equally successful. Please convey the First Lady's appreciation for your colleagues' leadership in developing this important program, along with her best wishes for a successful conference in London.

All the best and thank you for everything you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 2, 1999

Ms. Sithie Thiruchelvam
48 Rosmead Place
Colombo 7, Sri Lanka

Dear Sithie:

I was deeply saddened to hear of the death of Neelan. It is painful to think that someone who labored so much for moderation and tolerance could be cut down by those who are gripped by hatred and extremism.

I was very glad to have had the opportunity to meet both of you at lunch in Colombo during my visit there. Neelan's thoughtful concerns about the future of Sri Lanka and his advocacy for those who were victims of abuse touched me at the time and are among the most vivid of my memories of Sri Lanka.

I am sure you have heard from many around the world who remember Neelan with respect and affection. I want to join them in extending my deepest condolences to you at this very sad time.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 29, 1999

Elena Tonchu
President
"Women of the 21st Century"
14a Lermontova Street
Krymsk Krasnodar Region, 353330 Russia

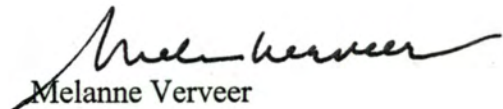
Dear Ms. Tonchu:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for the information about "Women of the 21st Century" coalition and your beautiful book about all Russia's great women and their contributions. Your work is very vital and the First Lady is pleased you were able to attend the conference.

Please accept Mrs. Clinton's appreciation for you and your colleagues' critical work to protect and empower women, along with her best wishes.

Thank you for all you do. *Мне очень понравилось.*

Sincerely,


Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Social Coalition

“Women of the 21st Century”

Elena Tonchu
President of Social Coal
“Women of the 21st Century”
14a Lermontova street
Krymsk Krasnodar region
353330 Russia
Fax: (86131) 2-11-33
4-27-12
4-03-10
4-01-10
e-mail: krmwons@krymsk.krintel.ru

This Coalition was organized in 1994, as Public Union on Women's Affairs Defending the Cause of Family, Maternity and Childhood, Now it is called “Women of the 21st Century” and it is a successor of the former organization. The main purpose and objective of the coalition is social defending of civil political and economic rights of women. We are for life without fear and violence? For order in our common house. The Crisis Centre called “Harmony” helps the women who are in difficult situations, the victims of domestic violence. The Centre gives psychological help, legal advice, and economical support to women. We stress the importance of working towards the elimination of violence against women in public and private life, the elimination of all forms of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking in women. All violations including in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy require a particularly effective response. Elena Tonchu President of the Social Coalition is the author of such books as “Russia – the women Fate”, “Kuban Women”, “How to Organize your own Business”. We look forward to our further joined activity in defending women's rights in situations of armed conflicts and all violations of this kind.

Women of the 21st Century

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 9, 1999

Ann Than-Trong
16166 - 109 Ave.
Edmonton AB T5P 1B8
Canada

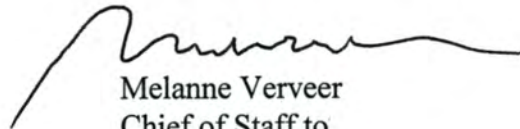
Dear Ms. Trong:

On behalf of the First Lady, thank you for your letter and concern it raised about the need to protect the rights of women in US prisons.

Human rights issues are of critical importance and we appreciate hearing from you on this topic.

Very best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

(P)

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Chair
The President's Interagency Council on Women
Department of State
2201 C St, NW, Room 6936
Washington, DC 20520
USA

Dear First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton:

Amnesty International believes that the nature and extent of sexual abuse in US prisons and jails shows an urgent need for compliance with international standards protecting the rights of female prisoners. As a member of Amnesty International, I am particularly concerned at the practice in federal and state prisons in the USA. The use of male guards to supervise female inmates is inconsistent with international standards such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Prisoners have just as much right as everyone else to be treated humanely. In the United States, women are often the victims of prison regimes, which show no regard for human dignity or for international human rights standards. If you're a woman prisoner, you may be guarded by male officers who are allowed to touch every part of your body during searches, and to view you while you are undressed. If you break disciplinary rules, you may have to spend 22 or more hours a day in your cell, denied all privacy from the male guards. Across the US, procedures for dealing with sexual assault by prison staff have often proved ineffective. And if you are abused, you may be too afraid to speak out if you've seen how guards treat women who stand up for themselves.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women states recommendations regarding conditions for women in prison that are consistent with the recommendations made by Amnesty International. I urge the US government and all relevant federal and state agencies to adopt the recommendations.

Thank you for your efforts and concern on this matter.

Sincerely,



Ann Than-Trong

16166 -105 AVE

Edmonton, AB

T5P-1B6

Canada

Ahn Tham-Trong
16166-109 Ave
Edmonton AB T5P 1B8
CANADA



[First Lady] Hillary Rodham - Clinton
HONORARY CHAIR
The President's Inter-Agency Council on Women
Department of State
2201 C St NW Room 6936
Washington DC 20520
USA

AIR MAIL

1008 102339
PARA

01



AERO

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 8, 1999

Daphne Trimble
32 Richmond Court
Lisburn, Co. Antrim
BT27 4EQ Northern Ireland

Dear Daphne:

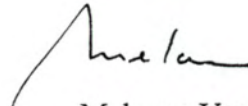
It was wonderful to see you, albeit briefly, during our visit to Belfast. Theresa and I feel privileged to have been there for the devolution and we all hope and pray that peace and prosperity will blossom in the days ahead. Congratulations to David on his steadfast leadership and best wishes to you both.

We appreciate all your efforts on behalf of Vital Voices and know that it can play an important role for women and their families in the new Northern Ireland.

Very best wishes and thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Happy Holidays!



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

January 4, 2000

Hon. Julia Taft
Assistant Secretary of State, Population, Refugees & Migration
Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Julia:

Attached is a letter regarding a Kosovo Women's Project. We have no way to assess it but are forwarding it at the suggestion of the NSC because it may be of interest to your department's initiative to help rehabilitate women in Kosovo.

All the best and happy New Year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Melanne

October 28, 1999

Ms. Huma Abadeen
Office of the First Lady
The White House

Dear Ms. Abadeen,

My son, Caleb, recommended that I contact you and Milan Verveer to seek support and guidance for the Kosovo Women's Project that I and Dr. Milton Womack are facilitating through our nonprofit organization, Cornerstone Programs International. We thought this mission would be of particular interest to Mrs. Clinton who has demonstrated a passionate commitment to enhancing the lives of women and children.

We are partnering with other organizations and individuals to establish centers and resources to care for women and children who have been traumatized by the war and who need to be provided with skills and job opportunities which will empower them to become productive members of their society. Our plan is to obtain funding which will support the existing infrastructure and to establish new facilities which will offer psycho-social services to help women to cope with sexual assault and grief/loss issues, as well as educational and vocational programs which will enable them to become effective parents and providers. Our partner in the region is the Joshua Trauma Center whose founder and Medical Director is Dr. Majlinda Treska who has established an inpatient clinic in Tirana and an outpatient facility in Gjakova.

Specifically, I would like to request advice about how to access funding through governmental sources such as USAID and if possible a letter of introduction endorsing our initiatives. Ideally, we would be honored to arrange a meeting with the First Lady or and local people in Kosovo or Tirana such as Dr. Treska whose letter is enclosed. We are planning another trip about the middle of November and hope that our paths will cross during that Thanksgiving period. What a blessing that would be. We have great faith in this mission and in the Clinton-Gore administration. Milton worked the polls and I, in the campaign headquarters here in Houston. We have both been financial contributors.

I am enclosing a brief outline about the Kosovo Women's Project as well as Dr. Treska's letter. We would greatly appreciate it if you would discuss the material with Milan Verveer and the First Lady. I will call to follow up in person.

Please wish Mrs. Clinton a joyous happy birthday.

Thank you so much for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Porter G. Shum". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Kosovo Women's Project

Mission

Cornerstone Programs International, a charitable tax-exempt organization headquartered in Texas, is partnering with other organizations and individuals to establish center(s) in Kosovo that empower women to take control of their lives and their society. Last month, Dr. Milton Womack, the president of the Cornerstone Programs International, traveled to Kosovo, Albania, and Vienna to survey the needs, form relationships, and formulate plans for implementation of this goal.

Objectives

- The establishment of facilities that care for women who are victims of sexual assaults.
- The establishment of physical and mental health services for women and their children.
- The establishment of training and educational opportunities to allow women to become productive members of society.
- The development of economic opportunities for women to become providers for their families and leaders in the business community.

The timing for the implementation of the trauma centers and the health centers components is critical. A World Health Organization (WHO) survey found that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) exists in 22% of the rural population and 16 % in the urban population among Kosovo Albanians. Early intervention is essential to avert long term problems.

OPEC has offered to consider funding some of these resources if they could send the money through the Carter Center. The Carter Center has declined to be involved since this project is not in the scope of their vision. World Vision has tentatively agreed to match funds raised from any source.

Needs

- An organization that commands the respect similar to the Carter Center to partner with us to receive these funds. (We, of course, would be responsible to this organization).
- An organization to partner with us to raise funds to implement these initiatives.
- Organizations and/or individuals to partner with us in implementing any aspect of the project.

From: "pshreve33" <pshreve33@email.msn.com>
To: "Milton Womack" <mow@pdq.net>
Subject: FW: Message from Majlinda Treska (Albania)
X-Priority: 3
X-MSMail-Priority: Normal
X-Unsent: 1
X-MimeOLE: Produced By Microsoft MimeOLE V4.72.3155.0

-----Original Message-----

From: Joshua Trauma Center <joshua@abissnet.com.al>
To: mow@pdq.net <mow@pdq.net>
Date: Saturday, October 23, 1999 9:18 AM
Subject: Message from Majlinda Treska (Albania)

>

> Dear Milton !

>We wish you enjoy a good health and we are looking forward to receive you
>in Albania on November 1999. The work in Gjakova is going smoothly for the
>time being. There are many traumatized people and the number of visits
>reaches the figure of about 150 - 200 per day. The population of Gjakova
>is enormous in needs and "Joshua Trauma Center" has been very successful
>in its activity, because very good medicines have been found and used for
>this reason. The specialist doctors have been chosen out of the best ones
>in Albania and the psychiatrist, psychologist and the social workers have
>been carrying a very heavy burden on their shoulders.
> During the investigations that we have been doing in different places we
>have found out the Drenica region which consists of two towns :Skenderaj and
>Glllobovski, in the most traumatized region with about 100 000 inhabitants
>and there's no hospital around.
> The nearest hospital is the one in Mitrovica 17 km from Drenica and this
>hospital is under the Serbs control and occupied by them and so that zone
>is unprotected as far as the medical side and the psychological
>counselings are concerned.
> That's one of the zones where the war first began and the needs are
>extremely enormous, there's no electricity, no water at all and the houses
>are totally destroyed and the people are very generous.
> Regarding the above mentioned question we have thought to open another
>branch of "Joshua Trauma Center" in Drenica to solve the psycho-somatic
>problems of that zone which is situated 40 km far from Prishtina. As a
>beginning we think to go there with some doctors of different
>specialities: psychiatrist, psychologist and to begin the counselling for
>the psychological problems, the psycho-somatic visits and apparatus to give
>the first aid. So far we have found the building where the clinic will be
>situated, the doctors and the full support of Kosova Government for the
>needed documentation. We are in need of financial support in order to get
>this project accomplished.
> The finance have to cover the staff salaries, (Albanian and Kosovars
>Doctors) the house rent, the medicines and the transportation expenses (one
>vehicle). Also 3 -4 simple chemical and biochemical laboratory apertures,
>X-ray apertures and the Ekg. These are the most needed things and solve the
>main problems of the population over there. We have come to these
>conclusions after the meetings that we have done with the health centers,
>the specialists and the population of this zone. They have also offered us
>a zone of 2 hectares in Skenderaj to build up a hospital or a Trauma Center
>and in this place there are some swimming pools and playing centers which

>can be exployded to relax the hospitalized people. If you would like I can
>send you the detailed project which
>with explanations of the needed expenses.
> We also need to purshase a MINIVAN for the clinic needs and the
>transportation of the patients.
>The approx. price is USD 1000.
>- II - USD 5000 for a X-rays apertures
>- II - USD 5000 for a Ekg
>- II - USD 3000 for a Laboratory
>- II - USD 2000 for an Ekg.
>
>The monthly expenses besides transportation mean and apertures :
> USD 8000 The staff salaries (Total)
> USD 1000 The house rent
> USD 2000 Various medicines
> USD 500 Food for the patients
> USD 500 fuel and different services for the vehicle.
>
> Many thanks and may GOD bless you
>
> The chief of the Clinic
> Majlinda TRESKA
>
>
>

PORTER G. SHREVE
5849 Sugar Hill Drive
Houston, Texas 77057
713-668-9091

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate-	Catholic University	Counseling Psychology	
M.Ed.	- University of Virginia	Counseling	1970
B.A.	- University of Pennsylvania	American Studies	1962
Post-Graduate Clinical Residency in Marriage and Family Therapy			1975
Texas Medical Center-	Houston, Texas		

LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

Diplomate-	American Psychotherapy Association
L.M.F.T. -	Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
L.C.D.C. -	Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor
A.A.M.F.T.	Approved Supervisor: Clinical Member American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
C.E.A.P.	Certified Employee Assistance Professional

EXPERIENCE

ADMINISTRATION- Have managed a number of organizations and independent projects. Includes administering overall program, delegating work responsibilities, supervising quality of work performed, managing personnel and budget.

COUNSELING - Have conducted evaluation and needs assessment and practiced counseling with individuals, groups, couples and families within a clinical context and in private consultation.

CONSULTATION - Have served as consultant to government agencies, corporations, community groups on a wide range of issues including health services, workplace conflict, family relations, professional development, drug/alcohol prevention, lifestyle management, conflict resolution, etc.

Porter G. Shreve
Page Two

POSITIONS HELD

West Houston Counseling Center, Better Life Programs 10/98 to present
Houston, Texas
Program Director, Co-owner
Oversee operation of Community Health Center
Perform individual and group therapy; facilitate family support group

University of Texas Health Science Center, Mental Science Institute 6/93- 10/98
Employee Assistance Programs
Houston, Texas
Clinical Manager -- managed clinical team; conducted supervisory consultations
Counselor- performed assessment, brief therapy and referral

Private practice 9/75 to present
Washington, D.C.; Houston, Texas
Perform psychotherapeutic services for individuals, families, couples and groups
Provide clinical supervision with marriage and family trainees
Conduct consultations and trainings for corporations, government agencies, schools, community groups, churches and schools.

Family Resource Center 1990-1993
Houston, Texas
Director, Family Life Services
Performed psychotherapy with individuals, couples, families and groups.

Alternative House 1987-1990
Oakton, Virginia
Clinical Coordinator
Provided clinical supervision for staff in shelter program for adolescents and families.

Substance Abuse Treatment and Family Therapy Services 1977-1987
Silver Spring, Maryland
Provided clinical supervision for graduate social work interns and Fellows in Adolescent Medicine
Performed psychotherapy with adolescents and families with drug/alcohol problems
Served of Community Drug Advisory Board

Porter G. Shreve
Page three

University of Maryland 1985-1987
Department of Family and Community Development
College Park, Maryland
Adjunct Professor
Taught courses in Family Therapy and Substance Abuse
Performed clinical supervision with graduate students in marriage and family therapy

Sheppard-Pratt Hospital 1984-1985
Baltimore, Maryland
Provided clinical supervision for social work staff in family systems therapy

Children's Hospital 1982-1984
Washington, D.C.
Provided clinical supervision in family therapy for residents in adolescent medicine

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Date November 5, 1999Number of pages 9 (including cover page)to: Name Huma Abadeenfrom: Name Porter G. ShreveCompany The White HouseCompany Cornerstone Programs
West Houston Counseling

Telephone _____

Telephone 713-462-1777Fax 202-456-5799

Comments _____

More than 900 locations worldwide. For the location nearest you, call 1-800-2-KINKOS. Visit our Web site at www.kinkos.com.

Melanne Verveer

we only need
to send 1
clean copy
of the ltr
from Caleb's
dad

Eric, pls do
a letter, on
ms



Valerie N. Guarnieri
11/19/99 09:49:10 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Katharine Button/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: 2 letters

Back from the President's trip and I saw your note requesting guidance on two Kosovo letters regarding the First Lady.

On the PSA for the Albanian American Council, I checked with our regional and public affairs offices. All are fine with the First Lady recording a PSA but we would like to clear on the text and ask, for policy reasons, that she not refer to Kosovo as "Kosova".

On the Kosovo women's project - I would suggest that the First Lady refer the letter to Assistant Secretary Julia Taft at State's Population Refugee and Migration bureau (PRM). PRM is funding a Kosovo Women's Initiative, through UNHCR, that supports programs that provide psycho-social services to women, helps women seek justice in the legal system for crimes committed against them and otherwise addresses the special needs of women resulting from the conflict. The Kosovo Women's Initiative (KWI) provides grants to small organizations to support such activities.

Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

- Valerie

see
attached

Dear Julia -

Attached is a letter regarding a

Kosovo Women's project. We have

no one of assessing it but it is important
as the suggestion of the NSC because it's really be
of interest to your department's
initiatives in that process to help

rehabilitate women in Kosovo.

all the best & happy new year.

Organization:	Cornerstone Programs International		
Requesting:	☐ Speaker	☐ Meet/Greet	☐ Video
Other:	☒ Letter (Greeting)		
Event:	None (Kosovo Women's Project)		
Date of Event:	None	Location:	N/A
Contact:	Porter Shreve 713-202-5033		
Recommended By:			

1	Deliver To: Melanne
From:	Date:
2	Deliver To:
From:	Date:
3	Deliver To:
From:	Date:
4	Deliver To:
From:	Date:
Status: ☐ Regret ☐ Pending ☐ Accept ☐ Letter (Greeting) ☐ Video	

.....
facsimile transmittal**To:** Ms. Huma Abadeen**Fax:** (202) 456-6208**From:** Porter Shreve**Date:** October 28, 1999**Re:****Pages:** 6**CC:**

.....

Cornerstone Programs International

P.O. Box 941357
Houston, Texas 77094-8357
(713) 202-5033

October 28, 1999

Ms. Huma Abadeen
Office of the First Lady
The White House

Dear Ms. Abadeen,

My son, Caleb, ^{Shreve} recommended that I contact you and Milan Verveer to seek support and guidance for the Kosovo Women's Project that Dr. Milton Womack and I are facilitating through our nonprofit organization, Cornerstone Programs International. We thought this mission would be of particular interest to Mrs. Clinton who has demonstrated a passionate commitment to enhancing the lives of women and children.

We are partnering with other organizations and individuals to establish centers and resources to care for women and children who have been traumatized by the war and who need to be provided with skills and job opportunities which will empower them to become productive members of their society. Our plan is to obtain funding which will support the existing infrastructure and to establish new facilities which will offer psychosocial services to help women to cope with sexual assault and grief/loss issues, as well as educational and vocational programs which will enable them to become effective parents and providers. Our partner in the region is the Joshua Trauma Center whose founder and Medical Director is Dr. Majlinda Treska who has established an inpatient clinic in Tirana and an outpatient facility in Gjakova.

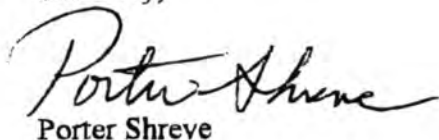
Specifically, I would like to request advice about how to access funding through governmental sources such as USAID and if possible a letter of introduction endorsing our initiatives. Ideally, we would be honored to arrange a meeting with the First Lady and local people in Kosovo or Tirana such as Dr. Treska whose letter is enclosed. We are planning a trip about the middle of November and hope that our paths will cross during that Thanksgiving period. What a blessing that would be. We have great faith in this mission and in the Clinton-Gore administration. Milton worked the polls and I, in the campaign headquarters here in Houston. We have both been financial contributors.

I am enclosing a brief outline about the Kosovo Women's Project as well as Dr. Treska's letter. We would greatly appreciate it if you would discuss the material with Milan Verveer and the First Lady. I will call to follow up in person.

Please wish Mrs. Clinton a joyous Happy Birthday.

Thank you so much for you kind assistance.

Sincerely,



Porter Shreve

Kosovo Women's Project

Mission:

Global Strategies for Religious Liberty and Cornerstone Programs International, both charitable tax exempt organizations headquarters in Texas, are partnering with other organizations and individuals to establish center(s) in Kosovo that empower women to take control of their lives and their society. Last month, the presidents of the two organizations traveled to Kosovo, Albania, and Vienna to survey the needs, form relationships, and formulate plans for implementation of this goal.

Objectives:

1. The establishment of facilities that care for women who were victims of sexual assaults.
2. The establishment of physical and mental health services for women and their children.
3. The establishment of training and educational opportunities to allow women to become productive members of society.
4. The development of economic opportunities for women to become providers for their families and leaders in the business community.

The timing for the implementation of the trauma centers and the health centers components is critical. A World Health Organization(WHO) survey found that Post Traumatic Stress Disorder(PTSD) exists in 22% of the rural population and 16% in the urban population among Kosovo Albanians. Early intervention is essential to avert long term problems.

OPEC has offered to consider funding some of these resources if they could send the money through the Carter Center. The Carter Center has declined to be involved since this project is not in the scope of their vision. World Vision has tentatively agreed to match funds raised from any source.

Needs:

- A. An organization that commands the respect similar to the Carter Center to partner with us to receive these funds. (We, of course, would be responsible to this organization).
- B. An organization to partner with us to raise funds to implement these initiatives.
- C. Organizations and/or individuals to partner with us in implementing any aspect of the project.

For more information, contact: Dr. Milton Womack, Kosovo Women's Project at kwp@pdq.net.

From: pshreve33 <pshreve33@email.msn.com>
Date: Wednesday, October 27, 1999 10:53 PM
Subject: Fw: Message from Majlinda Treska (Albania)

-----Original Message-----

From: Joshua Trauma Center <joshua@abissnet.com.al>
To: mow@pdq.net <mow@pdq.net>
Date: Saturday, October 23, 1999 10:18 AM
Subject: Message from Majlinda Treska (Albania)

>

> Dear Milton !

>We wish you enjoy a good health and we are looking forward to receive you
>in Albania on November 1999. Th work in Gjakova is going smothly for the
>time being. There are many traumatized peopleand the number of visits
>reaches the figure of about 150 - 200 per day. The population of Gjakova
>its enormous in needs and "Joshua Trauma Center" has been very successful
>in its activity, because very good medicines have been found and used for
>this reason. The specialist doctors have been chosen out of the best ones
>in Albania and the psychiatrist, psychologist and the social workers have
>been carring a very heavy burden on their shoulders.
> During the investigions that we have been doing in different places we
>have found out the Drenica region which consist of two towns :Skenderaj and
>Gllbovski, in the most traumatized region with about 100 000 inhabitants
>and there's no hospital around.
> The nearest hospital is the one in Mitrovica 17 km from Drenica and this
>hospital it's under the serbs control and occupied by them and so that zone
>it's unprotected as far as the medical side and the psychological
>counsultations are concerned.
> That's one of the zones where the war first begun and the needs are
>extremely enormous, there's no elextricity, no water at all and the houses
>are totally destroyed and the people are very generous.
> Regarding the above mentioned question we have thought to open another
>branch of "Joshua Trauma Center" in Drenica to solve the psycho-somatic
>problems of that zone which is situated 40 km far from Prishtina. As a
>bigging we think to go there with some doctors of different
>specialities:psychiatrist, psychologist and to begun the counselling for
>the psychological problems, the psycho-somatic visits and apparatus to give
>the first aid. So far we have found the building where the clinic will be
>situated,the doctors and the full support of Kosova Goverment for the
>needed documentation. We are in need of financial support in order to get
>this project accomplished.
> The finance have to cover the staff salaries, (Albanian and Kosovars
>Doctors) the house rent, the medicines and the transportation expenses(one
>vehicle). Also 3 -4 simple chimic and biochimic laboratoric apertures,

- >X-ray apertures and the Ekg. These are the most needed things and solve the
- >main problems of the population over there. We have come to these
- >conclusions after the meetings that we have done with the health centers,
- >the specialists and the population of this zone. They have also offered us
- >a zone of 2 hectars in Skenderaj to build up a hospital or a Trauma Center
- >and in this place there are some swimming pools and playing centers which
- >can be employed to relax the hospitalized people. If you would like I can
- >send you the detailed project which
- >with explanations of the needed expenses.
- > We also need to purchase a MINIVAN for the clinic needs and the
- >transportation of the patients.
- >The approx. price is USD 1000.
- >- II - USD 5000 for a X-rays apertures
- >- II - USD 5000 for a Ekg
- >- II - USD 3000 for a Laboratory
- >- II - USD 2000 for an Ekg.
- >
- >The monthly expenses besides transportation mean and apertures :
- > USD 8000 The staff salaries (Total)
- > USD 1000 The house rent
- > USD 2000 Various medicines
- > USD 500 Food for the patients
- > USD 500 fuel and different services for the vehicle.
- >
- > Many thanks and may GOD bless you
- >
- > The chief of the Clinic
- > Majlinda TRESKA
- >
- >
- >

10/27/99

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

January 28, 2000

Mr. Jim Towey
President
Aging with Dignity
PO Box 11180
Tallahassee, FL 32302-3180

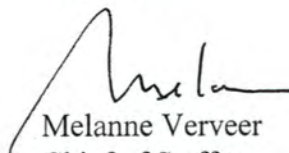
Dear Jim:

Thank you for your good wishes, the beautiful family photo, and the copy of your editorial from the St. Petersburg Times. It is so gratifying to see what an impact your work is having on so many. I concur with your assessment of what so many feel about meaning (or the loss of) in their lives.

Very best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful new millennium.

Love to all!

All the best,



Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



AGING WITH DIGNITY

January 4, 2000

Dear Friend:

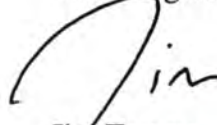
I hope your new year is off to a great start, and that the year 2000 is filled with many graces and blessings for you and those whom you love.

The day after Christmas the enclosed op-ed was published, and I wanted to share it with you in the hope that it will encourage you in your relationship with God.

I believe with all my heart that personal spiritual renewal, where with loving hearts we surrender to the will of God and then reach out to those in need, holds out the most promise for our country as we begin this new century and millennium. There are so many who live in our midst who suffer, and who long to have their God-given human dignity acknowledged and affirmed. They are a gift to us, not a burden, and only with God at the center of our lives can we be mindful of this truth. You may find the renewal program I mention (in the latter part of the editorial) which focuses on eight specific commitments to be of help to you and your family. It has been delightful to see Christians and Jews uniting before our one true God and making these commitments together.

I wish I could write a personal note to you but we are swamped here at Aging with Dignity, and the Towey family is expecting a new little one in the next month! Please keep us in your prayers, and may God bless you in this important, holy year.

Warm regards,


Jim Towey

Dear Melanne,
You would have loved THIS gathering.
5 Catholic Bishops, several Rabbis, etc.
Hope you are well and loved the George stuff.
Hope you can read the sidebar quotes.

P.O. Box 11180, Tallahassee, FL 32302-3180 • 215 S. Monroe St., Suite 620, Tallahassee, FL 32301
PHONE - (850) 681-2010 FAX - (850) 681-2481 WEB - WWW.AGINGWITHDIGNITY.ORG

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A NON-PROFIT FLORIDA CORPORATION AND 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1999

U.S. suffers from poverty of the soul

■ Jim Towey

To understand how some of Florida's top political leaders came to gather recently to openly pray and worship together, one must first appreciate the spiritual context.

For me, it begins with an admonition from Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who used to say to busy people that not even God can fill what is already full. It was her way of challenging people to do a little soul-searching, to rethink their priorities and daily routines, and to make room in their lives for the things that really matter.

The United States is living in a time of unprecedented prosperity. So, if times are so good, why do Americans feel so empty? Is our country full of the wrong things?

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn once said: "If humanism were right in declaring that man is born only to be happy, he would not be born to die. Since his body is doomed to die, his task on Earth evidently must be of a spiritual nature. It cannot be the search for the best ways to obtain material goods and then cheerfully to get the most out of

them. It has to be the fulfillment of a permanent, earnest duty ... so that one may leave life a better human being than one started it."

There is a hunger in America today to find meaning in life. Humanism has failed to satisfy the deepest longings of our hearts. A consumer culture that values the accumulation of goods, wealth and comfort over moral and spiritual growth creates a pagan world. And that is why there is this feeling of emptiness in America and a foreboding sense that our country may have lost something special — its soul.

We have forgotten God.

This spiritual poverty has invaded our families, communities and commerce, and can be recognized by its effect on society. The Sabbath

Please see **SOUL** 6D

■ *Jim Towey, president of the non-profit organization Aging with Dignity, worked 12 years as legal counsel to Mother Teresa of Calcutta and served in the administration of Gov. Lawton Chiles.* ■

no longer seems holy. The day set aside to remember our creator through prayer has become a day for shopping, sports and work. Or take the belief that we should honor our elders. Ask the lonely shut-ins and residents of long-term care facilities if they feel honored. Ask the healthy elderly who feel nearly invisible to a society that esteems only the productive. How we spend our Sabbaths and how we treat our elders speaks volumes about societal priorities.

Marriage and family haven't fared much better, either. The time-honored principle that the needs of children must come before the wants of parents is repeatedly ignored. The sin of adultery is viewed as private indiscretion even though it has disturbing public consequences, including traumatized children and unilateral divorces. Is it any wonder that fewer and fewer of our youth know right from wrong, or care to?

No discussion of the spiritual poverty pervading American life would be complete without touching upon the damage done by capitalism deprived of conscience. For too many, greed isn't just good; it's god. Without excep-

tion, whenever a corporation announces it is laying off thousands of loyal workers for the sake of the bottom line, the company's stock price immediately soars. How much profit is enough and at what human cost?

Dostoevsky said: "If there is no God, everything is permitted." That statement sums up where America is at the end of the 20th century. In Florida, it explains why we are more concerned about what is happening in the electric chair than what is happening in the rocking chair and the high chair.

So what can be done to reverse these discouraging trends and to address society's deepest concerns? Before I discuss what I believe holds out the most hope for us, I want to stress here that this spiritual poverty cannot be resolved by new or better government programs. I was secretary of Florida's health and human services agency and saw the limits of what government can do. It is true that these programs are better than nothing. But government can't love. Government can't forge true relationships with people in need. Government solutions can't really get to the core of the problem, which tends to be spiritual in nature, and that is why they are doomed to fail.

The hope for America and our dream for a better Florida rests on a spiritual awakening by each one of us. The solution will not be found outside of us but inside each heart and soul, rooted in our diverse faith traditions.

Florida's most prominent religious and political leaders believe this. They met recently and launched an interfaith campaign called Awakening 2000. This program focuses on one's conduct and need for personal, spiritual renewal. It invites Jews to be better Jews, Christians to be better Christians, and all who believe in God to examine their spiritual lives. Top-ranking Republican and Democratic officials, from Gov. Jeb Bush, Supreme Court Chief Justice Major Harding and the highest legislative representatives on down, joined Christian, Jewish and Muslim leaders earlier this month at an event called Aging with Dignity organized to promote Awakening 2000.

The Awakening 2000 program urges people to:

- Pray each day. Turn off the TV and listen to God more often. Read good things.
- Forgive. Be merciful and seek to be forgiven when you fail God and others.
- Renew family. Spend time with family members and place them at the center of your life.
- Respect life. Seek the truth about respect-

ing life. There is no "litmus test" here for views on abortion, euthanasia or the death penalty.

■ Honor elders. Value the wisdom and company of the elderly and affirm them.

■ Reach out. Spend time volunteering to help the poor and lonely. Be a good steward of what you have by giving more to charity and wasting less.

■ Smile. Smile as a means of spreading peace.

■ Sacrifice. Be serious about these commitments and love and give until it hurts.

There are many who do not believe in God and see a threat to the separation of church and state whenever public officials speak of God. These critics have a right to be skeptical and should judge a spiritual awakening by the fruit it bears. If it leads to a more tolerant, civil and merciful society, one with less condemning and more forgiving, one with less selfishness and more charity, then it will have remained faithful to its mission. On the other hand, if Awakening 2000 becomes a pretext to impose religion on others, or fails to reach out to the poor, then it will have become a monument to hypocrisy.

In fact, the success of any spiritual awakening will be determined by the extent to which believers of different faiths can lay aside their doctrinal differences and just agree to disagree on whose exact conception of God is right. This conflict of creeds is killing America because it is depriving the country of a united spiritual front at a time when the country's moral order is faltering.

The fact is, no religion is winning the war of words. Jews, Catholics and Protestants — all of whom believe in the same God — must join together to combat the spiritual decline in America.

Those Christians who feel that the call to evangelize is greater than an appeal for interfaith unity should reflect on Gandhi's words, that if the Christians of his time truly had practiced the teachings of Jesus, there wouldn't have been a Hindu left in India.

For there to be authentic spiritual renewal so that the dangerous moral trends in society are reversed and the human dignity of all is promoted, what is needed today is not a change of words by people, but a change of heart. That is not something government can do. Such a change requires both divine and human effort. What our different faith traditions have in common — love of God and love of neighbor — is all we need to build a better state and nation, one heart and soul at a time.

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1999

God and government

TALLAHASSEE — A summit designed to focus spiritual and political leaders on society's ills inspires the governor to pledge more money for foster parenting.

By **DAVID WASSON**
of The Tampa Tribune

The separation of church and state narrowed Tuesday as political and religious leaders from across Florida gathered in the historic Old Capitol to explore the role of God and spirituality in government.

Cast in patriotic themes and filled with inspirational vignettes, the first Summit of Faith sought to tackle what many view as society's moral decay by bringing two of its most powerful institutions closer. The participant list read like a who's who of Florida's religious and political circles.

"It's time for us to encourage loving thy neighbor," Gov. Jeb Bush said beneath a life-size portrait of George Washington. "I hope that we commit ourselves in the political realm, in the religious realm and in life itself to do that."

Adding his voice to the mix was Rabbi Solomon Schiff: "Our motto ... should not be, 'Live and let live' but 'Live and help live.'"

It marked the first time the leaders of every branch of state government had gathered in the same room as the leaders of many of the state's religious faiths to talk about God, social problems and what they expect from one another.

Organizers noted that no other state has attempted anything like it.

"We showed today in Florida that Jews and Christians can come together," said summit organizer Jim Towey, director of an advocacy group for the elderly and U.S. legal counsel to the late Mother Teresa. "We showed that it can be done."

Sponsored by Towey's nonprofit group Aging with



COLIN HACKLEY/Tribune photos

Archbishop John Favalora says the closing prayer at the Summit of Faith on Tuesday. Listening are House Speaker John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, left, summit organizer Jim Towey and Gov. Jeb Bush.



Gov. Bush gives Vertyle Moss' children a tour of his office after they performed a song at the Summit of Faith in Tallahassee. Moss stressed the importance of recruiting good foster parents.

SUMMIT / Spiritual and political leaders meet in Tallahassee

◀ From Page 1

Dignity and funded with about \$20,000 in private contributions, the summit comes at a time of increasing tolerance among Americans toward the blending of God and government.

Political observers, however, say it's unclear just how far that tolerance extends.

"There's a fine line between trying to bring some moral compass, and even some religious values, into public policy and going too far," said Brad Coker, an analyst with Mason-Dixon polling. "People seem to be more willing to let our elected leaders get closer to that line, but they don't want it crossed."

Moreover, no one seems to know where that line sits.

Mainstream politicians are scrambling to find the middle. Texas Gov. George W. Bush, front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, and Vice President Al Gore, the leader for the Democratic nomination, both advocate greater use of faith-based organizations in delivery of government-funded social services.

The gathering in Tallahassee was marked more by personal declarations of faith and spirituality than by expressions of commitment to any particular course of political action.

State House Speaker John Thrasher shared with the group that he sets aside one morning each week during legislative sessions to pray with lawmakers.

Senate President Toni Jennings explained she was raised in the Episcopal faith but is less likely, given her denomination's generally reserved style, to openly display her spirituality.

Chief Justice Major Harding of the Florida Supreme Court described his daily Scripture readings, something he does with his wife each morning.

Rob Boston, a spokesman for the Washington-based group Americans United for Separation of Church and State, said the summit raises eyebrows but poses no major concerns.

“It's time for us to encourage loving thy neighbor. I hope that we commit ourselves in the political realm, in the religious realm and in life itself to do that.”

Gov. Jeb Bush

"There's certainly no problem entering into a dialogue," said Boston, explaining there's no reason religious leaders should be denied the same access to politicians that lobbyists and special interest groups already have.

"But going into something like this, both sides need to recognize the constitutional limitations," he added. "Talking isn't a problem. It's what comes of that discussion that we're interested in watching."

Vertyle Moss, a foster parent from Brooksville, hopes very much that something will come of the summit.

She and the 13 children she is raising traveled to Tallahassee to sing for the 150 people at the summit. Moss decided that wasn't enough. She seized the opportunity to urge Bush and legislative leaders to recognize the importance of recruiting top-notch foster parents to help raise Florida's abandoned and abused children.

"They need somebody to give them values," she said. "You should see what it does for their

self-esteem when you tell them we all come from the same place."

The message rang loud and clear for Bush.

He later pledged to seek increases in next year's state budget for foster parenting. He also wants to ease restrictions on adoption.

Towey, who has spent four years trying to bring all of Florida's political and religious leaders into the same room for an entire morning, said he was pleased with the outcome.

He hopes it sets a civil tone for the coming legislative session.

"I think it gives them a moral imperative to look at the disabled, to look at the elderly, and to look at the mentally ill," said Towey, who was director of the state Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services under the late Gov. Lawton Chiles.

"I think it gives them a moral imperative to reach out to the people who need help."

► David Wasson covers state government and can be reached at (850) 222-8382.

Children lead the way at faith rally

A group of children from Brooksville entertains top state officials seeking spiritual renewal.

By LUCY MORGAN
Times Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — The sweet soft voices of children floated across an audience filled with Florida's highest-ranking politicians Tuesday at a "Summit of Faith" designed to spark a spiritual awakening among state leaders for 2000.

The voices belonged to 12 of the 13 children of Brooksville foster mother Vertyle Moss. They sang *Bless Us All* at the end of a two-hour religious service in the Historic Old Capitol.

The service was organized by Aging with Dignity, a foundation dedicated to aging Floridians. A gathering of Christians, Jews and Muslims, the ceremony featured a call from public officials for a reawakening of faith.

"Imagine if each one of us made a commitment to faith in God," said Gov. Jeb Bush. "Imagine if we loved our God with all of our heart, we probably wouldn't have a \$50-billion budget; it would probably be much smaller."

Also on hand were Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando, who said faith is believing in something larger than ourselves, and House Speaker John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, who said his faith has been strengthened by a group of public officials that gathers weekly to pray and share words of wisdom.

Major Harding, chief justice of the Florida Supreme Court, called for a spiritual reawakening, "a renewal of our trust in God."

"Look at the twinkle in these children's eyes and the sense of hope they have," Bush said after the service ended. "We need to help foster parents more and ease restrictions on adoption."

After the singing and the expressions of faith, the governor led the Moss children out of the Old Capitol and into the new



Vertyle Moss of Brooksville poses with her family of foster children and Gov. Jeb Bush in the governor's office after the Summit of Faith Tuesday. Twelve of the 13 children sang at the service.

Capitol to visit his office. Bush and the 12 older children were way ahead of Mrs. Moss and Emmanuel, at 11 months, the youngest of her foster children.

"I'm now foster dad," Bush quipped as he realized he and the older children were in his office without their mother.

"This is where the governor hangs out," Bush told the children as he explained the pictures on the walls. "This is my family — my mom and dad and that's my brother, Marvin. I'm the governor, can you believe that? Isn't that crazy? And there is Marvin the dog."

Three-year-old Devin had the first question.

"Where is the candy?" he asked.

Candy was immediately produced, along with gold Florida medals featuring the state seal and honoring the Florida National Guard. Each child got candy, a medal and an autographed picture of the governor.

"We're famous for real now," said Isaiah, 8, as his brothers and sisters swarmed around the office.

"You're famous because you are special," Bush responded.

Mrs. Moss started taking in foster children in 1988. She said Tuesday marked her first meeting with the governor.

"But I feel I've known him for a

long time," she added as she watched the children lining up for the pictures of Bush.

Before climbing into a van for the trip back to Brooksville, Mr. Moss and all the children sat down for a formal picture with the governor: Crystal, 14, Julia, 12, Reshay, 11, Matrey, 9, Sydney, 9, Isaiah, Vonnice, 8, Shannon, 6, Ernest, 7, Elijah, 7, Cyrus, 4, Devin and Emmanuel.

Trying to hold down the hand of Cyrus and Devin, Bush suggested they take a serious picture first, "then we can do a good one."

And they did. The governor stuck out his tongue while everyone else made a face too.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Wednesday, December 8, 1999

State leaders talk politics, religion

Gov. Jeb Bush advocates "faith-based approach" to state's social problems.

By Bill Cotterell
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Florida government can take a faith-based approach to caring for children and the elderly, punishing crime and building the state's economy without violating the constitutional mandate requiring separation of church and state, Gov. Jeb Bush said Tuesday.

Bush and other top officers from all three branches of government told how their personal religious and moral beliefs affect their public actions during a "summit of faith" featuring more than 50 clergy, political and business leaders from across the state. The meeting was called by Aging With Dignity, a nonprofit advocacy organization for the elderly, to begin a program called "Awakening 2000," encouraging people in all walks of life to add spirituality to their personal and professional activities.

"If we live in a state with a 60-percent divorce rate, if we live in a state with 80,000 children who are abused and neglected, if we live in a state where 35 percent of the children are born without the benefit of a dad, then our faith is going to be a lot more important," said Bush. "If we

can't love our families first, it's going to be a lot more difficult to love our neighbors."

Bush asked Cabinet officers, agency heads, city and county officials and religious leaders to "imagine what our state could look like if we put faith front and center" in public policy.

Prayers in Arabic, Hebrew and English echoed through the high-ceilinged chambers and hallways of the Old Capitol during the three-hour meeting. The Watson Temple Collegiate Praise Team and a chorus of children sang "Abide With Me" and "Bless Us All" to open and close the program.

Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando, said her Episcopal church is "fairly reserved," and she apologized for being a bit uncomfortable in discussing her faith. But she said it has guided her decisions on budgeting for health, education and social services.

House Speaker John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, told the crowd he often prays during his daily life, while driving to Tallahassee from Clay County, for example, or while presiding over the House.

"Many have made it difficult for those in public life to express faith, without being subject to mockery or even condemnation," he said. "I ask you, philosophically, how can these two be set apart? John Thrasher the speaker



MARK WALLHEISER / D

Bishop John Nevins of the Catholic Diocese of Venice speaks at the "summit of faith" on Tuesday.

is the same John Thrasher who loves his God."

Chief Justice Major Harding said he and his wife read Scripture at their breakfast table some mornings. He said that the American Revolution was made possible by The Great Awakening of social conscience in the 1730s and 1740s — and that in guaranteeing freedom of religion, the founders did not mean government officials could not apply their moral teachings.

"The time was ripe then for The Great Awakening," said Harding. "The time is ripe now for a spiritual awakening. It is time for us, it is time for me, to find new



MARK WALLHEISER / D

Gov. Jeb Bush addresses a "summit of faith" that featured more than 50 Florida clergy, political and business leaders.

Please see SUMMIT, 4A

SUMMIT: Clergy emphasizes faith in God as solution to social ills

From 3A

ways to show God's love to our fellow citizens."

The Rev. William Bright of Orlando, president of the Campus Crusade for Christ, mentioned the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., and Fort Gibson Middle School in Fort Gibson, Okla., as "tragic demonstrations of what happens when we turn our backs on the God of our fathers."

Rabbi Solomon Schiff, director of chaplaincy for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, added that "our motto should not be 'Live and let live,' but 'Live and help live.'"

"In this way, we will ensure that the change in millennium marks not just a change in calendar, but a change in character," said Schiff. "Then God will look down and say it is good."

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA <http://tampatrib.com>

A MEDIA GENERAL NEWSPAPER

★ FINAL EDITION ★



JOHN WARK
Capitol Watch

A summit on God and government

A week from Tuesday an unusual meeting takes place in the state's restored Old Capitol.

For 2½ hours the governor, the Florida Supreme Court's chief justice, Cabinet members and House and Senate members, joined by attorneys, business leaders and lobbyists, will sit down for a "Summit of Faith" with some 20 Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders.

Even in an era in which religious views have exerted ever greater influence over everything from presidential politics to messages stamped on state-issued license plates, there has never been anything quite like it.

God is being invited into the Capitol.

"The centerpiece" of the summit, says a news release on the event, "will be an open discussion by the delegates on the importance of remembering God and on the expectations which exist between government and religious leaders."

But the agenda is not to put prayer back in public schools, says Jim Towey, the man behind the summit idea. (He is personally opposed to prayer in public schools.)

The aim is to "trigger renewal in ... the spiritual lives" of political leaders and to set them thinking more deeply about the unmet needs of the elderly, the poor and children, he says.

TOWEY ONCE SERVED as head of the old Department of Health and Human Services under the late Gov. Lawton Chiles. In 1996 he started a not-for-profit organization called Aging with Dignity — an agency that has since become known for its widely distributed "Five Wishes" form, which lets seriously ill people establish what medical care they want.

With a \$600,000 annual budget, Towey also has pushed for more attention to be given to a difficult aging issue — how to prepare for elderly baby boomers. To his regret, three years have passed without much being done to ensure adequate care for the coming flood of elderly boomers whose numbers in a few years will begin to tax public and private health and social services.

The elderly, Towey says, have been forgotten by lawmakers "the last 14 sessions." Year after year, the needs of senior citizens have failed to make "the punch list of the top three, or even the top five, issues."

In Towey's office are pictures of Chiles, photo montages of family and friends, and on the wall directly behind and above where he sits at his desk, a framed black and white photo of Mother Teresa.

THE ACCLAIMED PEACE activist and champion of the sick and poor was a personal mentor.

"Having worked with Mother Teresa for 12 years" was instructive, he says. "She saw God in every man, woman and child."

Towey's talk threads together warnings about elder care with quotes from Alexander Solzhenitsyn and Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Russian writers who agonized over spiritual desolation.

He says Solzhenitsyn pointed out that government has "lost sight of the image of God in every person," while Dostoyevsky observed darkly, "If there is no God, then everything is permitted."

The economy, too, is tied into the summit. "You cannot have Wall Street setting the morals for this country," he says.

Glancing at a list he has prepared, he skims over some of the points he intends to raise on Dec. 7: About 770,000 adults need care for mental illness. Some 90,000 children are abused or neglected. A quarter of the state's children live in poverty.

"Clearly," Towey says, "the poverty we see in Florida is unacceptable for such a rich state. We are not Alabama or Mississippi."

► John Wark is Tallahassee bureau chief and can be reached at (850) 222-8382 or jwark@tampatrib.com

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Wednesday, December 8, 1999

State leaders talk politics, religion

Gov. Jeb Bush advocates "faith-based approach" to state's social problems.

By Bill Cotterell
DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER

Florida government can take a faith-based approach to caring for children and the elderly, punishing crime and building the state's economy without violating the constitutional mandate requiring separation of church and state, Gov. Jeb Bush said Tuesday.

Bush and other top officers from all three branches of government told how their personal religious and moral beliefs affect their public actions during a "summit of faith" featuring more than 50 clergy, political and business leaders from across the state. The meeting was called by Aging With Dignity, a nonprofit advocacy organization for the elderly, to begin a program called "Awakening 2000," encouraging people in all walks of life to add spirituality to their personal and professional activities.

"If we live in a state with a 50-percent divorce rate, if we live in a state with 80,000 children who are abused and neglected, if we live in a state where 35 percent of the children are born without the benefit of a dad, then our faith is going to be a lot more important," said Bush. "If we

can't love our families first, it's going to be a lot more difficult to love our neighbors."

Bush asked Cabinet officers, agency heads, city and county officials and religious leaders to "imagine what our state could look like if we put faith front and center" in public policy.

Prayers in Arabic, Hebrew and English echoed through the high-ceilinged chambers and hallways of the Old Capitol during the three-hour meeting. The Watson Temple Collegiate Praise Team and a chorus of children sang "Abide With Me" and "Bless Us All" to open and close the program.

Senate President Toni Jennings, R-Orlando, said her Episcopal church is "fairly reserved," and she apologized for being a bit uncomfortable in discussing her faith. But she said it has guided her decisions on budgeting for health, education and social services.

House Speaker John Thrasher, R-Orange Park, told the crowd he often prays during his daily life, while driving to Tallahassee from Clay County, for example, or while presiding over the House.

"Many have made it difficult for those in public life to express faith, without being subject to mockery or even condemnation," he said. "I ask you, philosophically, how can these two be set apart? John Thrasher the speaker



Bishop John Nevins of the Catholic Diocese of Venice speaks at the "summit of faith" on Tuesday. MARK WALLHEISER / Democrat

is the same John Thrasher who loves his God."

Chief Justice Major Harding said he and his wife read Scripture at their breakfast table some mornings. He said that the American Revolution was made possible by The Great Awakening of social conscience in the 1730s and 1740s — and that in guaranteeing freedom of religion, the founders did not mean government officials could not apply their moral teachings.

"The time was ripe then for The Great Awakening," said Harding. "The time is ripe now for a spiritual awakening. It is time for us, it is time for me, to find new



Gov. Jeb Bush addresses a "summit of faith" that featured more than 50 Florida clergy, political and business leaders. MARK WALLHEISER / Democrat

Please see SUMMIT, 4A

SUMMIT: Clergy emphasizes faith in God as solution to social ills

From 3A

ways to show God's love to our fellow citizens."

The Rev. William Bright of Orlando, president of the Campus Crusade for Christ, mentioned the shootings at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., and Fort Gibson Middle School in Fort Gibson, Okla., as "tragic demonstrations of what happens when we turn our backs on the God of our fathers."

Rabbi Solomon Schiff, director of chaplaincy for the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, added that "our motto should not be 'Live and let live,' but 'Live and help live.'"

"In this way, we will ensure that the change in millennium marks not just a change in calendar, but a change in character," said Schiff. "Then God will look down and say it is good."

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1999

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

TAMPA, FLORIDA ♦ <http://tampatrib.com>

and The Tampa Times

A MEDIA GENERAL NEWSPAPER \$1.00

The singular 'Summit of Faith'

People in public life, even though they may not all develop a hard shell, usually become a little rough around the edges. This is especially true of those who serve in positions that involve political or judicial conflict or both, because by the nature of their responsibilities, they can't get completely clear of the whirling knives.

That's why what is scheduled to happen Tuesday morning in Tallahassee seems so out of sync with everyday life in our capital city. Between 9:30 a.m. and noon, there is to be a "Summit of Faith" in the House chamber of the Old Capitol, and if that sounds to you like some sort of religious event, you are on the right track.

There are individuals, we're sure, who have observed Florida government for a long time and therefore believe few places so dramatically demonstrate the separation of church and state. There are those who would say church and state are so separate in Tallahassee that the distance between them can be measured only in light-years.

How remarkable, then, that Jim Towey, the founder and director of Aging With Dignity, the nonprofit organization that developed the comprehensive "Five Wishes" living will, is sponsoring a meeting aimed at "a spiritual awakening" in Florida, a meeting with one of the most diverse guest lists in state history.

Delegates to the "Summit of Faith" include

Gov. Jeb Bush, Chief Justice Major Harding, Senate President Toni Jennings, House Speaker John Thrasher, Lt. Gov. Frank Brogan, Agriculture Commissioner Bob Crawford, state Comptroller Robert Milligan, state Treasurer Bill Nelson, Education Commissioner Tom Gallagher, Elder Affairs Secretary Gema Hernandez and a bunch of state legislators, including Buddy Dyer, Lois Frankel, John Grant, John McKay, Beryl Roberts and Donald Sullivan.

The emphasis at the meeting will be on moral beliefs common to Christianity, Judaism and Islam. Indeed, those major faiths will be represented by 19 religious leaders, several of whom will read from holy Scripture or offer a prayer.

Towey explains the unusual event this way: "It's clear that even in this time of national prosperity, there are many problems government can't solve. It's necessary for people to reaffirm that we are our neighbor's keeper, that everyone has profound worth in the sight of God, and that we need God's help in developing the spirituality necessary to take proper care of the poor, the elderly, the mentally ill and so many others in peril."

We have known Jim Towey far too long to be in any way surprised by his high resolve. But we are indeed impressed that he has been able to persuade so many distinguished and occasionally antagonistic Floridians to come together and set a good example.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Sunday, December 5, 1999

Awakening 2000 aims for a spiritual renewal

A public prayer service is planned the night before the Summit of Faith.

By Sharon Rauch
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Don't worry about Y2K. Forget about the parties. What some people want to know is: What is your relationship to God going to be in the new millennium?

"When we look at the end of our century, we see a lot of troubling things with our teens, our families, our elders," said Jim Towey, president of Aging with Dignity and the spearhead of Awakening 2000. "A lot of these problems stem from spiritual poverty."

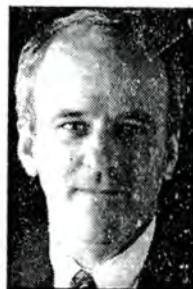
To turn this around, Towey and others have organized a Summit of Faith on Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the Old Capitol. More than 60 religious, government and community leaders — including Gov. Jeb Bush, Catholic Bishop John Ricard, Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz from Miami and Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ — will discuss ways to bring about a spiritual renewal in Florida. Because of limited seating, the public is not invited to this event. (Television stations around the state may broadcast the discussion in late December, Towey said.)

The night before the summit, however, everyone is invited to an interfaith prayer service at First Baptist Church, 108 W. College

Ave., from 6:30 to 8 o'clock. Ricard, Chefitz and Bright will also be at this event.

"When people first hear about (the service), they think it's just for government officials," said Diane Cossin McCain, a volunteer who has tried to publicize the event to the Tallahassee religious community. "But this is for everybody. We hope that people will recognize that they are wanted and needed to come to this celebration."

Organizers have been preparing for these events for more than a year, getting at least 2,000 people statewide to sign commitment cards agreeing to pray every day, forgive others, renew family relationships, respect life, honor elders, reach out to those in need, smile as a means of spreading



Towey

peace, and make a daily sacrifice as a sign of this commitment. Gov. Lawton Chiles signed one of the cards just days before he died.

The commitments remind people they're accountable to God, Towey said.

"Abusing the elderly is not just a crime," he said. "It's a sin. . . . Greed is a sin. Medicaid fraud is a sin."

Towey said many of the people he encountered as the secretary of the Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services during the early 1990s suffered more from spiritual poverty than material poverty. Abused children, welfare moms, drug addicts — all of them have "lost the sense of God-given dignity," he said.

"What's going to transform their situation is not just a government program, although that has a place, but a renewal of the spirit," he said. "Anything less is doomed to fail."

Towey said even those who aren't religious would benefit if the Awakening 2000 commitments were put into action.

"From our standpoint," he said, "this has universal appeal."

To download the commitment card, check out the Web site: www.agingwithdignity.org.

TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Various faiths find common ground

Monday night's prayer service, a prelude to today's Summit of Faith, offers leaders an opportunity to break down barriers.

By Sharon Rauch
DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

A Catholic bishop, a rabbi and a Christian evangelist spoke from the same pulpit Monday night at the First Baptist Church hoping to spark discussion about spiritual renewal in the new millennium.

"We seek to build on our own faith traditions to reach out to the powerless," said Jim Towey, president of Aging with Dignity and spearhead of Awakening 2000, which organized the interfaith service and today's Summit of Faith at the Old Capitol. "We should see them not as a burden but as a gift to us."

Today's summit will feature more than 60 government, religious and community leaders discussing the importance of spirituality as we enter the 21st century. Gov. Jeb Bush and several members of his Cabinet will be among those attending. (The summit is closed to the public because of limited seating, but may be televised later this month.)

Monday night's prayer service, however, was open to all. Margaret Worrell, 53, said she attended because it was an "appropriate time to reflect and act on the needs of the community."

"Service comes with action," she said. "This draws attention to it. The Legislature can help us."

Josh Swallows, 18, said he came because he it gave him a chance to be around others dedicated to God.

"A lot of times I feel alone out there," he said. "All you have is your church. When you're walking around campus you don't get to see the power of God a lot of times in the open."

Bishop John Ricard of the Catholic diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee said he became committed to breaking down barriers between people after seeing the horrors in Kosovo firsthand. Divisive issues like race, sex and religion lead to "situations like Kosovo," he said, while events such as the summit "reaffirm the bond between us."

Over the past 4,000 years Jews have experienced several major shifts in the way they worship God, said Rabbi Mitchell Chefitz from Miami. He said he believed we were on the brink of another such change and that he's coming to the summit to help share ideas of what people can do in the new millennium.

"We are gathered in a Summit of Faith to figure out what God wants us to do," he said. "I'll take the wisdom I hear and translate it into my own tradition. Others can take from me and translate it into their tradition."

Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusaders for Christ, spoke about the need for unconditional love.

"Make a list of the people you don't like," he advised, "and begin to love them."



ALLISON LONG / Democrat
Bishop John Ricard, with the Catholic Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, preaches on Monday as Rabbi Solomon Schiff (wearing a yarmulke), director of greater Miami Jewish Federation, listens during the Interfaith Prayer Service at First Baptist Church.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 13, 1999

Dr. Leila Takla
International Legal Consultants
8 Elsad Elali St. - DOKY
EGYPT

Dear Leila:

Thank you for your very thoughtful letter and the materials on the trip of the Holy Family in Egypt, as well as the books on culture and development. I have shared the informative publications with the First Lady.

We will keep the World Commission on Culture and Development report on file in our office. It is an excellent reference. We hope to see you in Florence in October.

Very best wishes and hope all is well with you.

As always,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady



Dear Melanne,

Thank you for your letter which was warm and encouraging. your vigour is catching. We all need women like you.

As we agreed, I am sending you with Mrs. Kurtzer the reports of the World Commission on Culture and Development (WCCD). A reasonable size report and a summary version.

Please find also two booklets on the tripe of the Holy Family in Egypt (one is for you). It is a trip worth taking one day.

Could you kindly ask your secretary to fax us some information about the Rome, October meeting on Culture and Development which we had discussed.

The very best to you always.

Leila

Love

Leila

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 17, 2000

Dr. Leila Takla
International Legal Consultants
8 Elsad Elali St. - DOKY
EGYPT

Dear Leila:

Thank you for your wonderful note about your recent experience. It was so funny that I gave it to Mrs. Clinton. Thanks for all you do and for your friendship.

All the best to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

Dr. Leila Takla

INTERNATIONAL LEGAL CONSULTANTS

8 ELSAD ELALI ST. - DOKY



مكتورة ليلا تكلا

المكتب الدولي للإستشارات القانونية

٨ شارع السد العالي - الدقى

Fax Message

To : Melanne Verveer
From : Leila Takla
Date : 27-3-2000

Dear Melanne,

The comments and response to my contacts in N.Y. were impressively positive. (still, a lot is needed).

One story you should know:

Coming out of a Bakery with Brownies, I got into a cab with a typical third generation Chinese driver; Pleasant, old and tiny.

I gave him one of the brownies. He said "good Blownies". We chatted. Asked him who he will vote for. Without hesitation he answered "Hirary she is good for us". He said he has a big family then added "I have eight votes and all will go to Hirary".

At his point I was leaving the cab. "You are a clever man who knows what is best" I said, and gave him the rest of the "Blownees". He grinned through the window and said "you see, I told you she is good for us".

So please tell "Hirary" that she owes me eight "blownies" which I will, one day, redeem.

Best Wishes and Much Love.

Leila Takla

file

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2000

Dr. Chang-Lin Tien
6101 Etcheverry Hall
University of California – Berkeley
Berkeley, CA 94720-1740

Dear Professor Tien:

I was so very sorry to hear that you've had some serious health problems, and just want you to know that the President and I are holding good thoughts and saying our prayers for your complete recovery. You have a lot of friends and fans throughout the country and across the globe who look forward to seeing you back on your feet.

With every good wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Hillary Rodham Clinton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "H".

Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2000

Mr. William Schulz
Executive Director
Amnesty International, USA
600 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, 5th Floor
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Mr. Schulz:

I appreciated your recent letter expressing concern for the safety of Mr. Rodolfo Montiel and Mr. Teodoro Cabrera, members of an environmental group in Guerrero, Mexico who were imprisoned last year on drug and firearms charges. I am aware of this unfortunate case. I also had the opportunity to meet Mr. Montiel's wife, in the company of the organizers of the Goldman Environmental Prize.

The Department of State, both directly and through our Embassy in Mexico City, has followed the case closely since last year, and has raised our interest in it with the government of Mexico. Our Embassy has also discussed Mr. Montiel and Mr. Cabrera's situation with the Miguel Augustin Pro Juarez Center for Human Rights (PRODH), the NGO which provided defense representation in the case and continues to advocate on their behalf.

PRODH representatives have confirmed that they will appeal the court's recent guilty verdict in the case. In the appeal, I hope that every relevant fact will receive careful consideration, particularly the procedural aspects raised by both PRODH and the Mexican National Human Rights Commission.

You may be assured that the United States will continue to monitor developments in the case, and will reaffirm its interest to the Mexican authorities.

Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 22, 2000

Mr. Carl Pope
Executive Director
Sierra Club
408 C Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Pope:

I appreciated your recent letter expressing concern for the safety of Mr. Rodolfo Montiel and Mr. Teodoro Cabrera, members of an environmental group in Guerrero, Mexico who were imprisoned last year on drug and firearms charges. I am aware of this unfortunate case. I also had the opportunity to meet Mr. Montiel's wife, in the company of the organizers of the Goldman Environmental Prize.

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Sincerely,


Hillary Rodham Clinton

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

November 20, 2000

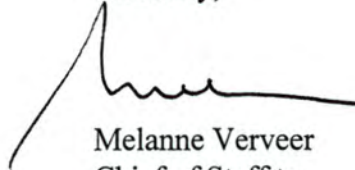
Ms. Vicki Turetsky
Senior Staff Attorney
Center for Law and Social Policy
1616 P Street, NW #150
Washington, DC 20036-1434

Dear Ms. Turetsky:

Thank you for your letter and for advocating the passage of the Child Support Distribution Act. The President has committed the Administration's support to this initiative. We've made good progress on this and we hope that when Congress reconvenes, we'll get the job done.

Thank you for your hard work on this vital issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melanne Verveer', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

October 23, 2000

Ms. Vicki Turetsky
Senior Staff Attorney
Center for Law and Social Policy
1616 P Street, NW #150
Washington, DC 20036-1434

Dear Ms. Turetsky:

Thank you for your letter and for advocating the passage of the Child Support Distribution Act. As you know, the President has committed the Administration's support to this initiative. *we've made good progress on this*

~~Strengthening low-income working families and promoting responsible fatherhood is important for so many reasons. Thank you for your leadership and all you are doing to bring attention to this vital issue.~~ *hard work on*

Sincerely,

Melanne Verveer
Chief of Staff to
the First Lady

and we hope that when Congress reconvenes after the election, we'll be able to get the job done.

2

October 12, 2000

VICKI TURETSKY
SENIOR STAFF ATTORNEY

Melane Viveer
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Viveer:

I am writing you to ask for your help in making enactment of H.R. 4678, the Child Support Distribution Act of 2000, an Administration priority this session. The legislation would result in over \$1 billion per year in additional child support going to families leaving welfare. This money would otherwise be retained by the states and federal governments as recovered welfare costs. The legislation also includes important fatherhood legislation. The Senate companion bill, S. 3189, was introduced yesterday by Senators Snowe, Moynihan, Kohl, Bayh, and Chafee.

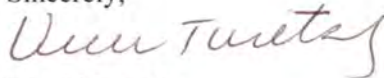
On September 7, 2000, H.R. 4678 overwhelmingly passed in the House 405-18. When the legislation passed, the President issued a statement in support. HHS testified in favor of the legislation and has signaled its interest in the legislation. Many states and advocates strongly support this bill as well. However, the legislation is stalled in the Senate Finance Committee.

H.R. 4678 contains many of the key provisions of the President's Fathers Work/Families Win proposal:

- H.R. 4678 simplifies child support rules by providing that back child support is paid to families leaving welfare, and not to the state.
- H.R. 4678 allows states to pass through support to families receiving assistance.
- H.R. 4678 creates a competitive grants program for projects that help low-income fathers gain employment and parenting skills.

We feel it is critically important to seize this opportunity to move legislation this year that will result in billions of dollars to low-income families leaving welfare and provide help to low-income fathers. We hope the Administration will make passage of H.R. 4678 or similar bill a legislative priority this session.

Sincerely,



Vicki Turetsky
Senior Staff Attorney

1616 P STREET, NW-SUITE 150
WASHINGTON, DC 20036-1434
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www.clasp.org
www.spdp.org
www.equaljustice.org

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(New York, New York)

FYI

For Immediate Release

September 7, 2000

STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT

I commend the House of Representatives for its broad bipartisan approval today of the Child Support Distribution Act. Vice President Gore and I are committed to promoting responsible fatherhood and making sure more child support goes directly to children, and this bill is an important step toward achieving these goals.

This legislation, which is similar in many ways to my Administration's child support budget proposals, allows states to pass through more child support payments directly to families and simplifies child support distribution rules. Like our "Fathers Work/Families Win" initiative, this bill also provides grants to help low-income fathers and families work, pay child support, and reconnect with their children. These initiatives build on our long-standing commitment to strengthen the role of fathers in their children's lives.

I encourage the Senate to take up this important legislation this year, and I look forward to working with the Congress across party lines to ensure that more fathers can honor their responsibilities and more children can receive both the emotional and financial support they need.

30-30-30